GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1089
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
DECREASE IN WATER RESOURCES
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether ponds and rivers are decreasing due to decrease in water resources;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to implement projects with regard to increase in water supply, restoration of ponds, revival of reservoirs, rain water harvesting and to harness the flood water;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any action-plan in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) There is no change in the water resources potential of India although the flow in river varies from year to year depending on a number of factors like monsoon, snow-melt contribution etc. The study of discharge in rivers does not indicate any decrease in flow, though variations in flow from year to year are always there. The area under tank irrigation has reportedly declined and deteriorated over the years due to long neglect of maintenance.

(b) to (e) Government of India has approved a pilot scheme "National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" in January, 2005 at a cost of Rs. 300 crores to be implemented by the States in one or two districts for the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan. The aims and objectives are to restore and augment the storage capacity of the water bodies and to recover and extend their lost irrigation potential. The scheme is being implemented in nine states of the country so far and more states are likely to participate in this programme during the current year.

For rain water harvesting, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources has proposed a scheme for "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting" under State Sector for implementation during the remaining two years of the X Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crore. The proposed scheme will be implemented in identified areas of over-exploited and dark blocks, drought prone and water scarcity areas, coastal areas and islands affected by saline water ingress, area of inland salinity, urban areas showing steep decline in ground water level and sub- mountainous/hilly areas of various States. The scheme will be implemented through State Governments under the technical guidance of CGWB.

There are no schemes with Ministry of Water Resources specific to harnessing the flood water. Ministry of Water Resources has been implementing Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for Major & Medium irrigation projects since 1996. The benefits of AIBP for Minor Irrigation Projects have been availed by the special category states and KBK districts of Orissa since 1999. It has also been extended for all states during the current year.